

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5612

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EG

SUBJECT: GOE "OPEN DOOR" PROGRAM

1. DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THERE HAS BEEN SPATE OF HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS OF SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS, OFTEN CHAIRED BY DEPUTY PM HEGAZI, TO DISCUSS WIDE RANGE OF ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION MEASURES. CABINET MET FOR FIVE HOURS MARCH 6 UNDER SENIOR DEPUTY PM HATEM TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF BROAD PROGRAM CENTERING ON TWO ISSUES: DECENTRALIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF GOE BUREAUCRACY, AND APPLICATION OF MORE LIBERAL APPROACH TO DOMESTIC PROBLEMS.

2. ALL PAPERS MARCH 7 HAVE BANNER HEADLINES ANNOUNCING NEW "OPEN DOOR POLICY". DR. HATEM IS QUOTD AS HAVING TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT BELIEVES EGYPT SHOULD ADOPT A LIBERAL POLICY IN ALL CULTURALY, SCIENTIFIC AND INFORMATION FIELDS SO THAT THE COUNTRY CAN RECOVER ITS POSITION AS A "RADIATION CENTER" FOR THE ARAB NATION. IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE DIRECTIVES, THE CABINET REPORTEDLY APPROVED LONG LIST OF DETAILED PROPOSALS, CHIEF OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORT OF ESSENTIAL GOODS WILL BE LIFTED TO ALLEVIATE SUPPLY, TRANSPORT, AND HOUSING PROBLEMS, GOE WILL ANNOUNCE LIST OF BADLY NEEDED COMMODITIES WHICH MAY BE IMPORTED WITHOUT TRANSFER OF CURRENCY.

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B. INTERNATIONAL "CONTACTS" WILL BE SHARPLY INCREASED.
TELEX AND TELEPHONE SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED. ALL RESTRICTIONS
ON TOURISM WILL BE LIFTED. IMPORT OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS WILL
BE ENCOURAGED. SPEEDY TRANSFER OF FOREIGN CURRENCY WILL BE
ENSURED TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND BANKING
TRANSACTIONS.

C. MINISTER WILL DEVOTE ENERGY TO HIGH PROBLEMS OF STATE,
DELEGATING TO UNDERSECRETARIES ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF
DECENTRALIZATION.
EILTS

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